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# 108 Great Places committee has done great work

A one-hour session at the Eagle Point Park Lodge this afternoon represents the culmination of months of work put in by members of the local Iowa Great Places Committee.

The committee today will meet with members of the Great Places advisory panel to pitch the local plan known as "Even More Things To Do With A River View." The hope is that when the state announces in October the three pilot projects chosen for this new initiative, Clinton is at the top of the list.

## The Herald's Opinion

More than 140 proposals were submitted at the beginning of the plan, and more than 70

are presenting offers to the advisory panel. All were given the same set of rules to play by. However, since this is a new plan and its organizers wanted to promote thinking out of the box, the guidelines tended to be blurry.

Still, the local committee needs to be applauded for its efforts. Members made presentations to the Clinton City Council and conducted a public forum. They spoke at the Clinton Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. They surveyed high school students and other community members to see what makes Clinton a great place today and what could enhance it in the future.

The local group has devised a series of suggestions, projects and ideas that ultimately would redefine recreational opportunities and river access in Clinton by improving the public spaces along the Clinton riverfront and "connecting the dots" of existing public spaces, eventually producing a so-called Grand Promenade from the U.S. 30 bridge to Eagle Point Park, Clinton's crown jewel and the best spot to view the widest point of the Upper Mississippi River.

The elements of the proposal are wide in variety. There are some already planned projects, such as the lumber mill museum that has been a project of the Kiwanis Club in recent years and the North River Drive project developed by the Lyons Business and Professional Association. Others are the brainchild of the Great Places committee, such as a public art garden near the foot of the U.S. 30 bridge and a disc golf course at Eagle Point Park.

Many elements are things that Clintonians over the years surely have considered as ways to rejuvenate the recreation opportunities in town — things like renovation of the 1,000 Steps at Eagle Point and the public beach on the Willow Island Harbor area.

We hope the advisory panel shares our reaction to the "Even More Things To Do With A River View" Great Places proposal — absolute joy. The elements of this pro-



...the proposal seem to strike a positive chord in every segment of the population and lead to an almost universal sense of acknowledgment for the needs the plan addresses.

Ultimately, the proposal works because it recognizes what we already have — some of the most beautiful shoreline along any part of the Mississippi River— and finds non-invasive ways to make it better, and in doing so make it more accessible to Clintonians and more of a draw for those looking to truly experience the Mississippi.

The possibilities are endless, especially with the co-operation of state agencies. We are the easternmost part of Iowa, the literal Gateway to the west. There is no better time to capitalize on that, for us in Clinton and all of Iowa.

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